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A TRIBUTE TO FRANK A. SORACI

At the annual meeting of January 5, 1960, President Shoumatoff presented to the retiring Editor of the Journal, Mr. Frank A. Soraci, a testimonial from the Society. This expressed the deep appreciation of the Society for the service which Mr. Soraci had given to the Society during his ten years as editor of the Journal. It is certain that this appreciation is not limited to the members of the Society for, during the course of his editorship, Mr. Soraci has built up a large circle of friends. All who have published in the Journal can testify to Mr. Soraci's cordial relationship with its contributors, but few know the difficulties under which he had to carry out his duties as editor.

Mr. Soraci took his bachelors degree in Entomology at the New York State College of Forestry at Syracuse University in 1932. In the following year he was employed by the New Jersey Department of Agriculture. During his years of service with the Department Mr. Soraci held positions of increasing importance and, in 1956, succeeded Dr. Harry B. Weiss as the Director of the Division of Plant Industry. In addition to the manifold duties of the directorship, which embraced organizational work in four different Bureaus (Entomology, Plant Pathology, Seed Certification and Laboratory Service) Mr. Soraci served as chairman of the Eastern Plant Board and the National Plant Board and held other administrative posts outside the Department of Agriculture. As joint author with H. B. Weiss and E. E. McCoy Jr., Mr. Soraci has published in the Journal three major papers dealing with the reactions of insects to light. He is also the author of numerous smaller publications on the life histories and distribution of insects. During World War II Mr. Soraci was in command of a Malarial Survey Detachment and at pres-

ent holds the reserve rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the Medical Service Corps.

Mr. Soraci joined the New York Entomological Society in 1933. After serving as secretary from 1947 to 1950, he became editor of the *Journal* on the resignation of Dr. Weiss, who had been editor for the previous twenty-five years. His close association with Dr. Weiss enabled Mr. Soraci to take over the duties of the editor with complete success and it is unfortunate that this auspicious beginning was marred by a decision of the Society to change printers in 1953. This decision was based on the belief that the change would lead to substantial savings in the rising costs of printing. Despite warning from Mr. Soraci that the *Journal* might suffer from the change, the step was taken in 1954. What happened thereafter more than justified Mr. Soraci's warning, but he was forced to struggle with a situation not of his making. Finally, the *Journal* was more than a year behind publication date in the fall of 1956. By that time the Society recognized that the continuation of a policy which consistently delayed publication would probably lead to the *Journal's* demise. Mr. Soraci was instructed to resume publication through the former printer and to bring the *Journal* up to date as soon as possible.

The delay in the publication of the *Journal* had reduced contributor interest, which added to the difficulties that Mr. Soraci had to face. Nevertheless, by the end of 1959 five volumes of the *Journal* had been issued and its publication was back on schedule. There is every reason for the Society to feel sincere gratification at this achievement and, while Mr. Soraci acknowledges the help that various members gave, it should not be forgotten that the major burden fell on him as editor. Mr. Soraci has clearly showed that he puts the good of the Society and the *Journal* ahead of his own interest and that he amply deserves the esteem of his fellow-members and all friends of the Society—WM. S. CREIGHTON.